

Abundance and Run Timing of Adult Salmon in Henshaw Creek, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, 2009

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Abstract

In 2009, a resistance board weir was used to collect information on abundance, run timing, and biology of returning salmon and other resident fish species migrating up Henshaw Creek, a tributary to the Koyukuk River, Alaska. An estimated 1,637 Chinook salmon *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha* and 156,933 Chum salmon *O. keta* passed through the weir, which operated from July 5 through August 7, 2009, counted. The four other fish species that were counted include: longnose sucker *Catostomus catostomus* (N = 3,837), arctic grayling *Thymallus arcticus* (N = 107), whitefish (Coregoninae; N = 15), and northern pike *Esox lucius* (N = 10). The estimated weekly sex composition for Chinook salmon ranged from 45% to 56% female fish. There were three primary age classes identified, 1.2, 1.3, and 1.4, which composed 34%, 28%, and 37% of the run, respectively. The estimated weekly sex composition for summer chum salmon ranged from 41% to 62% female fish. There were two primary age classes identified, 0.3 and 0.4, which composed 78% and 19% of the run, respectively.